



NEWS RELEASE

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ASHLAND-GREENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER NAMED NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Kristi Bundy, a sixth grade teacher at Ashland-Greenwood Middle School, was named Nebraska 2014 Teacher of the Year today during a surprise award presentation.

Nebraska Deputy Commissioner of Education Scott Swisher presented the award.

Bundy was one of four Nebraska Teacher of the Year finalists.

The following teachers were finalists and will be recognized as Awards of Excellence winners:

- Lisa Graham , who teaches 9-12 English, German and Spanish at Waverly High School in Waverly
- Robert Henrichs, who teaches 9-12 English and theatre at Lincoln Southwest High School in Lincoln
- Judith Ann Stucky, who teaches 9-12 science at Westside High School in Omaha



Bundy said her goal is “to help every student reach his or her potential.

“I would consider my greatest contribution to education as my belief that education helps people be successful,” she wrote in her application. Bundy challenges her students to take control of their future and works to give them the tools to be successful and to achieve academic success. She uses technology in her classroom, for example, teaching students to use spreadsheets and to make graphs for science projects so they can analyze the hypothesis of their experiments. “Seeing a visual representation of growth or lack of growth is a powerful tool to help motivate students to work on improvement,” Bundy wrote.

A longtime colleague described Bundy’s classroom as a “whirlwind of continual learning.”

Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Superintendent Zachary Kassebaum wrote: "Kristi has assumed various leadership roles in the district and carries forward with an 'I can' attitude that is contagious." Bundy "is passionate about seeing ALL kids succeed," he said, and she continually monitors and adjusts her instruction to best meet the needs of all students.

Bundy is a member of the Ashland-Greenwood Education Association, the Nebraska Coaches Association, the Nebraska Science Teachers Association and the Nebraska State Education Association. She received a Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

A panel of Nebraska educators selected Bundy as the 2014 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year program recognizes the contributions of classroom teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled and teachers who have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Bundy and the Awards of Excellence winners will be honored by the State Board of Education at a November luncheon. Bundy will participate in the national Teacher of the Year competition later this year.